

Sudden Response 2005: Joint training exercise plans for the worst

In The News

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FORT MONROE, Va. ? A joint military training exercise using Charleston, S.C. as the setting of a fictional nuclear explosion concluded on August 19. The exercise was designed to improve the United States' readiness if such an event should occur.

Joint Task Force Civil Support, a unit composed of service members from all the branches of the military, including Department of Defense civilians and civilian contractors, used this scenario, dubbed "Sudden Response 2005," for training to improve and accelerate the nation's response to a disaster.

Established in October 1999, JTF-CS, a subordinate unit of U.S. Northern Command, was formed to "save lives, prevent injury and provide temporary life support following a national disaster," said Maj. Gen. Bruce Davis, the commander of JTF-CS.

Theoretically, over 450,000 people were affected by the fictional blast that spread over 900 square miles in a heavily populated metro-area. That number included 10,000 fatalities, and over 30,000 casualties, said Davis during a news conference held August 16.

During normal day-to-day business, less than 160 people make up the staff of JTF-CS, but in a real-world scenario of this proportion, up to 3,000 people could be attached to the unit and organized into separate task forces, said a JTF-CS Public affairs official.

The JTF-CS task forces notionally provided a disaster response that included medical personnel and supplies, nuclear decontamination expertise, mortuary affairs, food, water, temporary shelter, and air and ground support, said Davis.

"Sudden Response 05" began August 15 and concluded Aug 19.

By Staff Sgt. Sharon McBride



Photo by Spc. Chris Jones, 40th Public Affairs Detachment (Aug. 16, 2005) — Maj. Gen. Bruce Davis, commander, Joint Task Force Civil Support, speaks to reporters Tuesday, about the ongoing training mission, Sudden Response 05, at Fort Monroe, Va. JTF-CS, which contains elements of all branches of the military, is on call to provide support and aid in the event of a major disaster.

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